A Short

ACCOUNT

OF

That Faithful Servant of the Lord, and Diligent Labourer in his Vineyard,

George Gray.

Who finished his Testimony, and laid down the Body at *Ashorthies*, in his native Country of *Scotland*, the 8th Day of the 12th Month, $168\frac{9}{90}$.

Where unto are added

Two Epistles, written by himself, in the time of his Imprisonment for the Truth at [illegible].

Psal. 112. 6. *The Righteous shall be in Everlasting Remembrance.*

Rev. 14. 13. *Blessed are the Dead which dye in the Lord, from henceforth, yea, saith the Spirit, that they may Rest from their Labours, and their Works do follow them.*

London, Printed, and Sold by *T. Sowle*, at the *Crooked-Billet* in *Holywell-Lane*, *Shoreditch*, 16[illegible]

A Short

ACCOUNT

OF

The Faithful Servant of the Lord,
and Diligent Labourer in his
Vineyard.

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE PREFACE TO THE READER.

THe living Remembrance of the many Heavenly Comfortable Teſtimonies that were born by this Faithful Miniſter of the Lord, (George Gray,) *and alſo of his Stedfaſtneſs and Patience, in the great Sufferings and long Impriſonment which he Cheerfully underwent for the Truth; being freſh*

upon

upon the Minds of those who were experimental Witnesses of the powerfulness of his Ministry, and of the Blessed success it had, especially in Aberdene, *and the Country thereabouts, where he was most frequently concerned in the Work of the Lord while in the Body.*

It was therefore thought fit to publish these short Testimonies following, as an evidence *of the sweet Savor* he (through his Faithfulness to the Lord) *hath left behind him, among those who* (in the fellowship of the Gospel) *were Conversant with him; and also of the real esteem they bear*

to

to his Memory in the Truth: Which, *that they may have that good effect in those who read them as to ſtir them up to faithfulneſs unto the Lord while they live in this World*; That ſo, *they may receive a Crown of Eternal Righteouſneſs hereafter*, *is the earneſt deſire of*

Alexander Seaton.

Patrick Livingston's TESTIMONY, Concerning *George Gray.*

AS to Dear *George Gray*, my dear Friend and Brother in the Service of the Bleſſed Truth, and my fellow-Sufferer in *Aberdene* Priſon; He was a man whom I greatly loved; for though he was a Poor Man in this World, yet he was rich in Faith; and though his Education was mean and low, he was endued with divine Wiſdom and Underſtanding in the things

things of God, and a good sound and Solid Testimony he had in the Meetings of the Lords People; insomuch that many Considering him in his place among Men, have taken notice of the Gift he had in Delivering his Testimony with that Soundness and Weight, as no Critical Enemy did ever catch him in a Word, as ever I knew off; and I knew him at his first coming amongst us; and the Love of God in my Heart was towards him; For I never found him under Blame, nor ever heard of any that could Justly Blame him, either in his Testimony, Life or Conversation since he was restored into the Obedience of the Truth; but he was of a good Report.

And when I heard of his being taken away from amongst us, I was satisfied in my self

(having

(having that Constant experience of him in his Life time) that it was well with him; and it came near me, the Consideration of the great loss and miss Friends in those parts would have of him: But I live in the Hope that the Lord will in his own time raise himself up Faithful Labourers in the room of those *Worthy Men* he hath been pleased to remove from us, and to take to himself of late in this Island of *England* and *Scotland*; and my Prayer to God is, through the Son of his Love, in the moving of his Holy Spirit, that all who remain behind, may so live and walk in Unity and Fellowship with the Lord God in the Spirit of his Son, and one with another, as that his Glory may shine forth thorow us all, to the reaching and gathering of many

many more; and that all who are gathered may grow up in the Spirit and Power of the Lord God Almighty; That over all Heaven and Earth he may have his Honour, Glory and Praise forever; *Amen.*

Patrick Livingston.

The

THE TESTIMONY OF FRIENDS

Of the Monthly Meeting at *Aberdene*, Concerning

George Gray,

AMong the many Watch-Men and Proclaimers of the bleſſed Morning of the Everlaſting Day of our God, this faithful Inſtrument was one, who was raiſed up to Viſit, Salute and Comfort the Seed of God in this Nation of *Scotland*, and to be as a Nurſing Father unto many Babes, and a Com-

Communicator of Spiritual Gifts as a Faithful Steward to the Houſe-hold of God therein, Eſpecially in the Northern parts thereof, where his Comfortable Labours and uſeful ſweet Miniſtry moſtly was; and truely we can ſay, it is fulfilled as to him, that the Memorial of the Juſt doth flouriſh and remain as a freſh ſweet ſavour with many who know the Seals of his Miniſtry on our Hearts, and of Chriſt's ſpeaking in and thorow him, to the refreſhing, watering and building up of many in the Unity of the moſt pretious Faith and Love; which was the end of all the Gifts given by Chriſt Jeſus, as ſaith the Scripture: And truly his Gifts for this end, not onely of a large underſtanding in the Word of God's Wiſdom that dwelt richly in him, but alſo of utterance to expreſs and bring forth

the

the ſame abundantly, and with great and clear demonſtration of the Spirit, were much the more remarkable, that he was a mean unlettered Man, (except ſimply Reading and Writing) and of a very low condition in the outward; whereby his Maſters Power and Spiritual Wiſdom, and Furniture of Goſpel Miniſters (by which he doth immediately repleniſh them) did ſhine and evidence it ſelf the more clearly through him, according to the Exhortation of the Apoſtle, who ſaid, *Let him that ſpeaketh, Speak as the Oracles of God, and him that Miniſters do it of the ability that God giveth him*; So that he, being without any pretence of mixture or aſſiſtance of the acquired Learning and Sciences ſo much admired in the World, and pretended (though falſly) to be the moſt neceſſary accompliſhment

of

of Gospel Ministers; it hath been certainly known to some of us that very understanding Persons (not of the Profession he was of) have confessed their admiration at the utterance, excellent matter, and pertinent Conexion they observed in his Testimony, whom they knew to be no learned Man, as to outward Learning, being very apt to Judg (according to their way) that the Testimonies of others among us (who they knew had some of that Learning) were hepled or furnished thereby; but as to him they were at a stand, judging it, as indeed it was, somewhat beyond their natural Reach.

His Spiritual Accomplishments beyond Mens natural reach.

Now this Gospel Ministry which he freely received, & was not taught of man, or by man, he was exceeding

ceeding careful freely to give it forth for his Glory that gave it him; and to make it no wise chargeable to any; Yea, in this he might glory in his God, that his Hands ministred to his Necessities by very constant, diligent, hard Labour (at all the intervals of his Ministerial Services) in that outward Vocation and Trade he was off, being (as many of the Lords Servants were of old) of a manual and mechanick Trade, which he kept most diligently and assiduously to the very end of his Dayes: Yea, so steadfastly unmoveable was he in this his Principle of not making the Gospel chargeable, and of being a good example in Laborious diligence with his Hands (being indeed not sloathful in business, though fervent

His care not to make the Gospel chargeable.

fervent in Spirit, ſerving the Lord) that his care on that account can hardly be expreſſed. His Care and Zeal was great, not only to have his own Converſation well ordered; but that the leaſt appearance of evil might be abſtained from by all Friends; and that all things that were truely Lovely, Comely, of good Report, and for the Honour of the Bleſſed Truth, might be Zealouſly followed, both by himſelf as an Example to the Flock, and by all others that were under the ſame Profeſſion with him: He truely loved to ſpend and be ſpent in the unwearyed Labours and Services of the Goſpel; His Zeal therein was ſo great that it ſeemed even to ſpend his natural Strength, ſo that he did ſwiftly run his Bleſſed Race and lay down his earthly Tabernacle, (wherein he had ſerved the Lord

with Cheerfulneſs) being about forty nine Years of Age.

A little before his departure, being filled with the Power of the Lord, he gave weighty Exhortation and Counſel to all that were preſent, eſpecially to his Children. To ſome Friends that came to ſee him, he ſaid, *He had not kept back the Word and Counſel of the Lord from them, and now he could ſay, it was good Doctrine to leave nothing to do till a dying Bed.*

Weighty expreſſions upon his Death-Bed.

He had been ſometimes much exerciſed in Teſtimonies at Fairs or Markets, and in Speaking to People out at the Priſon-Windows in the time of that long Impriſonment at *Aberdene*, wherein he was a faithful Yoke-fellow in Suffering for Truth, to his own great comfort and advantage (as well

well as to the Honour of God) being ever after that Suffering to his dying-day, raiſed up in a publick Miniſtry for the Lord, who had given him not only to believe, but to ſuffer (with Joy) for his Name, both the impriſonment of his Perſon, and the ſpoiling of a great part of the mean outward Subſtance which he poſſeſſed.

Among many remarkable paſſages which might be mentioned concerning him, this one thing was thought fit to be here inſerted; That being once called to declare Truth in a publick Fair (or Market) in *Old Meldrum*, one pretending ſome Authority there, did violently beat him, who fell quickly after into a *heavy diſeaſe and ſore pain*, crying often out to ſome about him, *that it was for beating the Servant of the Lord.*

A Remarkable Paſſage.

He was little in writing outwardly (but hath left living Epiſtles written in the Hearts of many) yet theſe two following Letters being providentially found, may ſerve for ſome taſte of his Spirit, being writ when he was but very Young in the Truth, and but entring in to his publick Miniſtry in the time of his Impriſonment.

This Teſtimony concerning our Dear Friend, aforementioned, was given forth at our Mens Meeting at *Aberdene*, in the firſt Month, 1692. And ſubſcribed in behalf of the Meeting, by

Thomas Mercer, *Andrew Jaffrey*,
John Robertſon, *John Gleny*,
Robert Gordon, *John Hall*,
Robert Burnet, *John Forbes*.

The Papers written by himſelf, are as followeth.

A

A WARNING TO THE Priests of *Aberdene*,

Sent to them by *George Gray*, Weaver, and Prisoner for the Truth in the said City, the 6th Day of the 3d Month, 1676.

O Ye Priests of *Aberdene*, How long will ye resist the Spirit of the Lord? How long will ye despise Prophecying? How long will ye speak lying Divinations, and speak Lyes in the Name of the Lord? How long will ye hold up mens Inventions,

and Traditions, and Cuſtoms, and Faſhions, after the Rudiments of this World, which muſt paſs away? How long will ye deceive your ſelves, and deceive and delude others, by not knowing the Lord but by hear-ſay, and as ye have learned it as a Trade to gain Money withal? For all ye do, is for Hire; and if they give you no Money, then you will give them no Preaching nor Praying; and ſo it is a ſign and token that God never ſent ſuch to be Miniſters, who will not teach without Hire and without Money; for ye are Teachers for your Backs and Bellys, and not careful to gain Souls to the Lord, and therefore Dreadful will the Day be that will come upon you when you will not be looking for it, and Wo and Miſery will overtake you before ye are aware.

O ye Prieſts, ye Prieſts, Woful and Dreadful is the Day which is approaching you, from the dreadful God of Heaven and Earth for your Covetouſneſs and Deceitful Dealing with poor People, poor indeed for want of the true Knowledge of God; for ye Murther and Kill their Souls with dead Lifeleſs Words, not coming to the Spirit of Jeſus Chriſt, nor yet ſpeaking in and from the Power and Life, but ſtealing and gathering Words from others, and out of old Authors and Books, and tells that over, having it meaſured by an Hour-glaſs, and ſo feed Peoples fleſhly Ears for a time, and learn them a notion, without any feeling of Life to their Souls, they not being ſpoken from the Life; and ſo People come bad, and go as bad away; yet for all that ye profeſs to be Miniſters of Chriſt Jeſus,

Jesus, and in the mean time you deny to be led, acted or moved by his Spirit, or to wait for his Power, Spirit and Life to enable you therein; But upon the contrary, you do maintain that men may be sufficient Ministers, without Grace, * without the Power and Spirit of Christ; and that a Reprobate may be a Minister and Convert Souls: And for this cause ye hold people from the Power, and suffer them not to come to it, nor know it, but cry up the Letter of the Scripture to be the only and alone Rule; and reject the Spirit of Christ, as he reveals himself in Men and Women's Hearts by his Light. So ye are they that pretend to the form of Godliness, and deny the Power thereof, you are they

* *It is to be observed that the Priests of* Aberdene *did strongly contend against the absolute Necessity of Grace to the Constitution of a Minister of Christ.*

they that are *Enemies to the Croſs of Chriſt*, which is the Power of God, *your end is deſtruction, if you repent not, whoſe Belly is your God, who mind Earthly things*, and beget People into the ſame mind with you, in Pride, and Luſt, and Vanity, living *without God in the World*. O what will come upon you? O ye Prieſts, but anguiſh of Spirit, Tribulation and Horror of mind, which will make you to cry out, *Wo, and alas! that ever we were born.*

O Ye Prieſts, take Warning in time, and come out of your dark deceitful wayes, or elſe Darkneſs will be your Portion for ever, for they that hate the Light in their Life time, ſhall not enjoy it hereafter: Therefore ye Prieſts, turn to the Light and believe in the Light, that you may become the Children of the Light, yea, and all

all your Hearers, and ſit down in Silence until the Lord by his Power, Spirit and Life, raiſe you up and open your Mouths, and then will you be true Miniſters; and never till then, pretend what you will. And ſo take Warning in time, before the dreadful Day come upon you, which ſhall come upon all the Inhabitants of *Babylon*; which that ye may do, is the deſire of my Soul.

George Gray.

A Copy of a Paper sent by *George Gray* to the Country Meeting at *Collibill*, dated from the *Tolbooth* of *Aberdene*, the eight day of the third Month, 1676.

MY Dear Friends in the Truth, the Salutation of Love and Life be multiplyed in and among you from the Father of Life and Love, and in the sence of the Pure Love of God which flows in my Heart towards you, do I warn and exhort you to walk in the Crosse of our Lord Jesus Christ, which Crucifieth us to the World and the World to us, and watch in Patience & Meekness and Calmness of Spirit against every thing that would draw out the mind, in any measure, from the true Meeting-place, either in Meeting or out

out of Meeting; For truly my Friends, he or ſhe that doth not watch diligently out of Meeting, but let their minds go a gading to the ends of the Earth, and take no heed to have them gathered in before they come to Meeting, truely it's no wonder to ſee ſuch diſappointed; and therefore my dear Friends, be careful every one in particular to have your minds ſtayed upon the Lord, and the Lord will not be wanting to you; for great is his condeſcending to us in this day, and wonderful is his work to thoſe that truely watch and wait upon him.

Therefore my dear Friends, every one know your place, and let not any go out nor look out beyond your meaſures; and let none Speak, nor Sing, nor Sigh, nor Groan but in a true ſence of their Conditions; and let none make haſte to ſpeak any thing before the Lord, which they know

know not to be from the true power, but all to wait for the Power and Life and the Love of God; for truly where the Love of God is not plaeed in the Heart, the true Power will not attend their performances, neither will God regard their Speech or Prayer: Therefore dear Friends dwell in Love, and walk in Love towards all Men and Women, and feel the Love of God in your Hearts flowing forth to all, whether they love you or hate you; for truly my Friends, where hatred is brought forth againſt any Perſon, upon whatſoever account it be, although you may think the cauſe juſt, yet it will ſeparate you from the Love of God, for envy and hatred is of the Devil, and he is there where it is; and Chriſt Jeſus will not dwell with him in Unity; And therefore my dear Brethren and Siſters, Love one another in that Love wherewith Chriſt hath loved

loved you, and likewise your Enemies, for Love gathereth to God; but envy scattereth; and therefore I warn you in the Fear and Dread of the Everlasting God, that ye be not Hinderers of the Work of the Lord, for dreadful will their Portion be that let or hinder it in this day, or bring an evil report upon it: So take warning my Friends, and every one look to their way, and to the prosperity of Truth. And my Friends, I thought the Zeal of Truth should have had more effect upon some then I see it hath; but I shall forbear, leaving every one to their own Master: But they that follow for Loaves and Fishes, when they get them not, they will fail even in that Zeal also.

My Little Children, Love one another.

George Gray.

THE END.

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